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The terrain covered by this reconnaissance lies midway between the Congo mouth and Tanganyika, the greatest attention having been devoted to the Sankuru affluent of the Kasai from Basongo at the point of union as far as Batempa at a point a few miles higher up the stream than Lusambo. Leaving the Sankuru at Bena Dibele, the expedition penetrated the forest to Kole on the Lukenie and followed that stream for some distance to Lodja. The Lukenie parallels the Sankuru and Kasai at some little interval to the north; finally it joins the Kasai system just before reaching the Congo. From Lodja a journey northward to Lokesu and beyond brought the party into yet another system, that of the Chuapa, which reaches the Congo at Equatorville. The story of the incidents of the march is well told, the author has observed with interested eyes the life of savage folk never before seen, he has succeeded most happily in presenting a pleasant record.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Great Plateau of Northern Rhodesia. Being Some Impression of the Tanganyika Plateau. By Cullen Gouldsbury and Hubert Sheane. xxiii and 360 pp. Map, ill., index. Longmans, Green & Co., New York, 1911. \$4.50. 9½ x 6.

On this plateau, 4,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level, lying between 8° and 12° S. Lat., and 30° and 34° E. Long., live a number of tribes that have maintained their distinctive characteristics. This book has for its aim to depict the conditions of the country, and the manners and customs of the people, while they are still primitive—"before they fade and are forever obliterated by the corrosive contact of civilization." The discussion opens with the rites and customs of succession practiced by the most virile of the tribes, the aristocracy of the country, the followers of the Crocodile Kings, and then describes the native customs, especially in relation to justice, the formal festivals of birth, initiation, marriage and burial, and the social life of the villages.

Closely related to the main theme are discussions of the missionary movement in the district and of the future prospects of the territory. In the former, a well-balanced view of the status and work of the missionaries is presented, and the authors have moved safely along the middle road between carping criticism and over-zealous praise. Here, unlike many other places in Africa, Mohammedanism has not become the foe of the Christian missions, mostly because of the inaccessibility of the stations; but as time goes on, the encroachment of the religion of the North, which appeals curiously to the African native, will surely occur and the field of the struggle between Mohammedanism and Christianity will be enlarged.

In the final chapter, the authors summarize their views as to the possibilities of this distant land when it is made accessible by railroads. After this achievement, capitalists may be able to make the Nyassa-Tanganyika plateau a much valued corner of the Empire.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Geology and Geography of Northern Nigeria. By J. D. Falconer. xiv and 295 pp. Maps,* ill., index. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London, 1911. \$3.25. 9 x 5½.

These results of Dr. Falconer's work, while in charge of the Mineral Survey of Northern Nigeria, may well be considered as the nucleus of an eventually more detailed investigation of the Protectorate. Although the title implies that part of the book treats of the geography of the region, the chapter on which this designation is based deals solely with the surface forms and the hydrography of the district. In the main, the author has presented his subject in the form usually adopted by geologists. The minuteness with which he and his collaborators describe the topography of the region evinces both their painstaking care and an ample realization of the extreme importance of familiarity with surface conditions as a preliminary aid to subsequent geologic research. So many workers overlook this that its consideration still deserves a special mention of praise.

The same care appears to have been devoted to the microscopic determination of the crystalline rocks, the texture and structure of which are discussed in

* Listed under "Northern Nigeria," *Bull.*, Vol. 44, No. 4, April, 1912, p.317.

the second chapter. The value of the data collected by Dr. Falconer is readily understood when it is recalled that the districts he has visited belong to a zone of transition between the fully developed deserts of Northern Africa and the well-watered regions of the equator.

The stratigraphic notes forming the bulk of the book's material will doubtless be used to advantage in the eventual solution of the problems in the stratigraphy of this hitherto ill-known region. The author and his collaborators deserve due credit for the attempt made to correlate the evidences of Tertiary disturbances in Northern Nigeria with the far-reaching phenomena now known to have taken place farther north at the same period. At the same time the sequence of events in the course of the Tertiary eruptions is not taken up with sufficient detail. The mere hinting at the limits of petrographic provinces is premature at this stage of our knowledge of the erstwhile igneous activity prevailing in that region. We cannot refrain from noting that practically no reference is made to the work of American geologists in the Great Basin region where the manifestations of Tertiary vulcanism have been studied in detail.

Under the caption of Appendix 1 some very meager notes of the mineral resources of the Protectorate are crowded into some six pages of large type text. This is regrettable. In the first place, because data of economic value have nowadays become the great stimuli of scientific research. Secondly, because of the high value of mineralogic types in the determination of metalliferous provinces where the presence of either a single mineral or of a group of minerals often furnishes the key to the solution of many an important regional problem. The two-fold impressions gathered from the text of Dr. Falconer's work is that, while the region gives evidence of its being economically important if attention is bestowed upon the geologic data given, yet, on the other hand, such is not the case were one to base himself on the paucity of material used in the compilation of the report on mineral resources.

A second appendix is devoted to the enumeration of Upper Cretaceous fossils found, carefully prepared photographic reductions of which are used as illustrations. Considering the work as a whole, it may be asserted that too much praise cannot be given to the author and his collaborators for the splendid pioneer work they have presented in this volume.

LEON DOMINIAN.

ASIA

Atlas zur Geschichte der Kartographie der Japanischen Inseln,

nebst dem Holländischen Journal der Reise Mathys Quasts und A. J. Tasmans zur Entdeckung der Goldinseln im Osten von Japan i. d. J. 1639 und dessen Deutscher Übersetzung. By Paul Graf Teleki. XII and 184 pp. Numerous maps in text with twenty full-page map reproductions. Budapest, 1909.

The author includes under the term "Japanische Inseln" all those which now constitute the Empire of Japan. His work, as stated above, embraces, not only the history of the cartography of this region, with numerous reproductions of early maps, but the accounts of the journeys of Quast and Vries in the year 1639 and 1643, which accounts occupy about one-half of the entire atlas. Though the author confesses to a want of knowledge of the Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese languages, he has given us a remarkably fine piece of work which, he expresses the hope, will encourage others to make further research in the same field. *Part I* treats especially of "Zipangu," first knowledge of which, in Europe during the Middle Ages, appears to have been derived from Marco Polo. That knowledge, however, is shown to have been very inexact in a chapter treating of the cartographical representations of the island before the discovery of America. Its first representation appears in the Catalan map of 1375, based upon the word of the great Asiatic traveler. Though not bearing the name Zipangu, a legend on this map tells of the existence of rich islands in that locality. On the Fra Mauro Map of 1459, it appears under the name "Ziripagi," and it is likewise represented on the Behaim and the Leon globes, as well as on the Toscanelli map, assuming, as does the author, that there was a Toscanelli map, which assumption is probably contrary to fact. An interesting chapter treats of the influence of the discovery of America on the knowledge of Japan and its cartographical representation, at the time of which discovery